AHEC and award-winning South African furniture makers, Houtlander, collaborated on the 'Preservation Bench' for 100% Design South Africa 2019. Known for their modern take on spindle furniture, Houtlander re-worked their signature style to celebrate the sapling growing from the up towards the canopy. By using which is stable in the presence of moisture, the designers were able to create three grounded benches that curve into one gravity-defying twisted form that seemingly disappears into the air. So vast is the U.S. hardwood forest that all of the red oak lumber used to create the installation would be replaced through natural regeneration in less than 1 second.
Design brief and aim
To bring the energetic experience of eating Mumbai street food to the easy-going Uptown Oakland neighborhood.

How this was accomplished
The design idiom takes advantage of the high ceilings and abundant natural light in the century-old, brick-and-timber building. Hand-crafted interpretations of traditional Indian elements are at play at this all-day bar.

The open kitchen and its wood clad hearth showcase the skills in creating fresh, handmade dosas. Vibrant colors and unconventional textures complement the cuisine. Highlighting the meeting point between Oakland and Mumbai, two large mural walls commissioned from local artists transport diners from Oakland to India and promise fresh discoveries with every family dinner, casual cocktail, or morning chai.

The architectural simplicity is experienced upon entering the space, with an unconventional bar to the right that acts as the primary point of contact for customer and wait staff before directing guests into the crosswise dining area. Without a traditional hostess and wait staff, visitors are encouraged to navigate their own journey through the restaurant, instructed by its straightforward symmetry and design.

Happily ever after
The project’s resourceful design, fine materials, and thoughtful detailing make Dosa by Dosa both journey and destination.

DOSA BY DOSA, OAKLAND
Feldman Architecture, California